



# Genome Engineering and Biosensors

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# Outline

## Applications

- Biofabrication
- Biomaterials
- Bioproduction of industrial chemicals

## Basic Enabling Technologies

- Genome Engineering
- Biosensors
- Orthogonally interacting protein pairs
- DNA synthesis

# Biofabrication

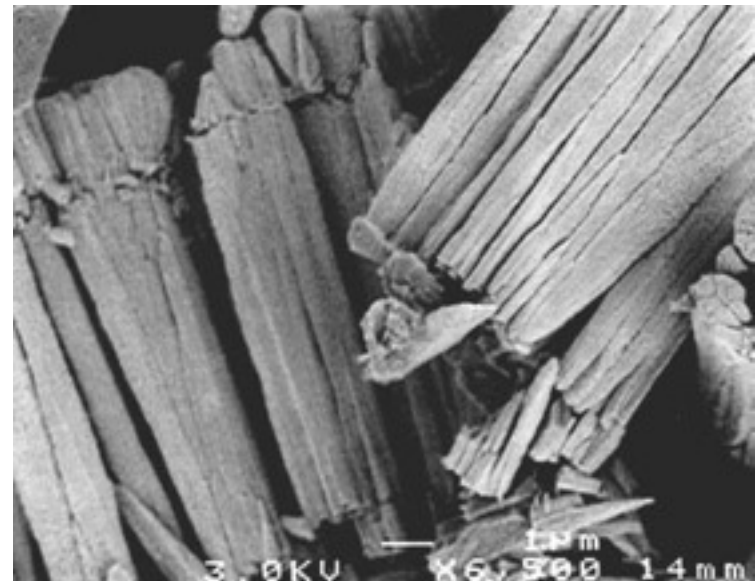
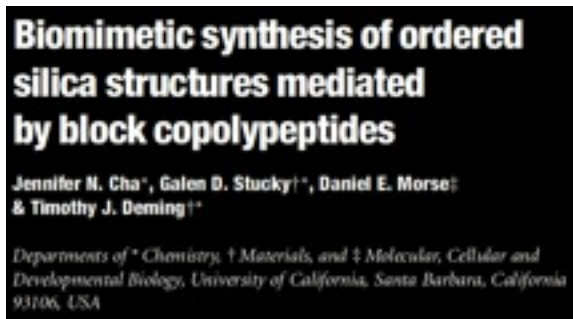
## - silicatein alpha

# Overview | why biofabricate machines and materials?

Goal | to make functional components of mechanical, electrical, optical and fluidic systems.

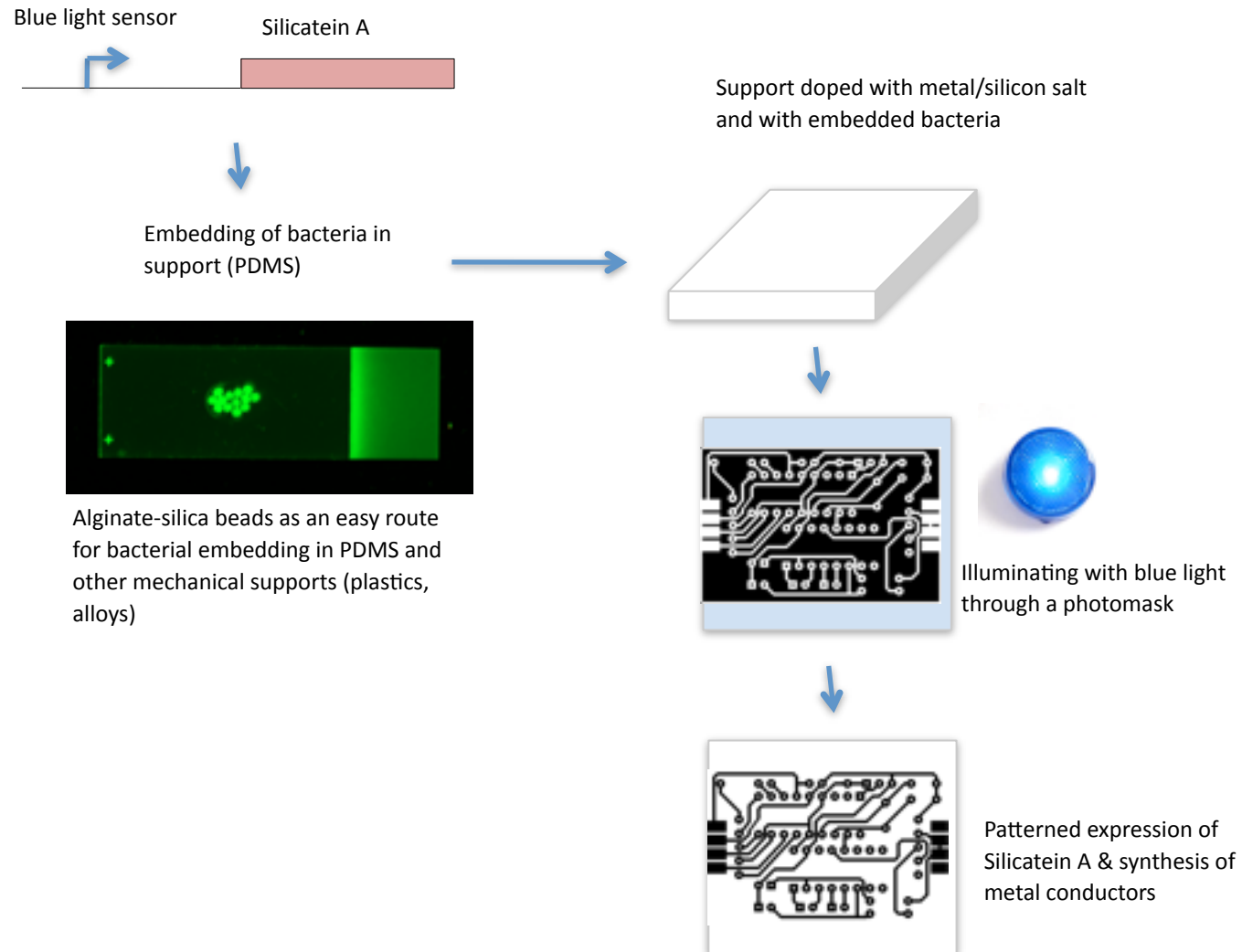
Approach

1. Clone biological pathways for manipulation of metals, silicon, gels and other substrates.
2. Couple to a sensing element of choice.
3. Integrate into proper support.



Cha et al, Nature 403, 289-292 (2000)

# Biofabrication of electro-optic component from light



# Biomaterials - silk

# Engineering silk

## Properties of silk

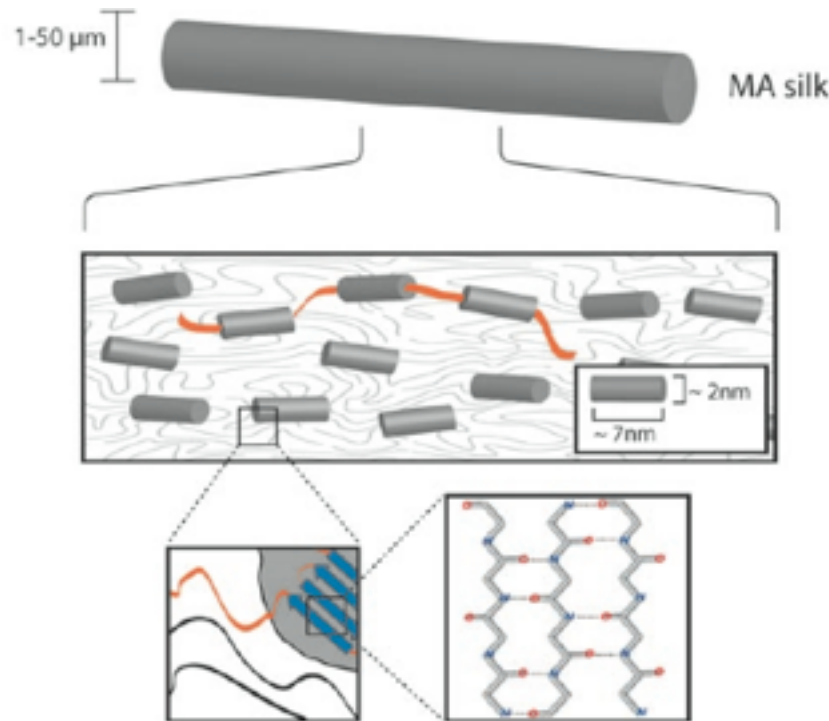
- \* silk is one of the strongest natural fibers
- \* tensile strength comparable to high-grade steel
- \* extremely lightweight
- \* highly ductile

## Applications

- \* suture material (stitching)
- \* wound healing bandages
- \* tendon/ligament repair
- \* bulletproof vests
- \* lightweight structural fabrics
- \* athletic clothing

# Chemical composition of spider silk

- \* comprises of proteins with many repeat sequences
- \* rich in Ala and Gly enabling tight packing
- \* interspersed crystalline and amorphous regions



## OBJECTIVES

Producing silk with desired properties

Expressing spider silk in silkworms ?

Well-established rearing and extraction protocols for silkworms



# Need for tools to genetically modifying silkworms

- Transgenesis efficiency: 1 transgenic worm out of 100 injected eggs
- Need homologous recombination to completely engineer silk properties
- Developing selection marker – diphtheria toxin ?

# Production of Genetically-modified Silk



# Bioproduction

- lycopene
- tryptophan

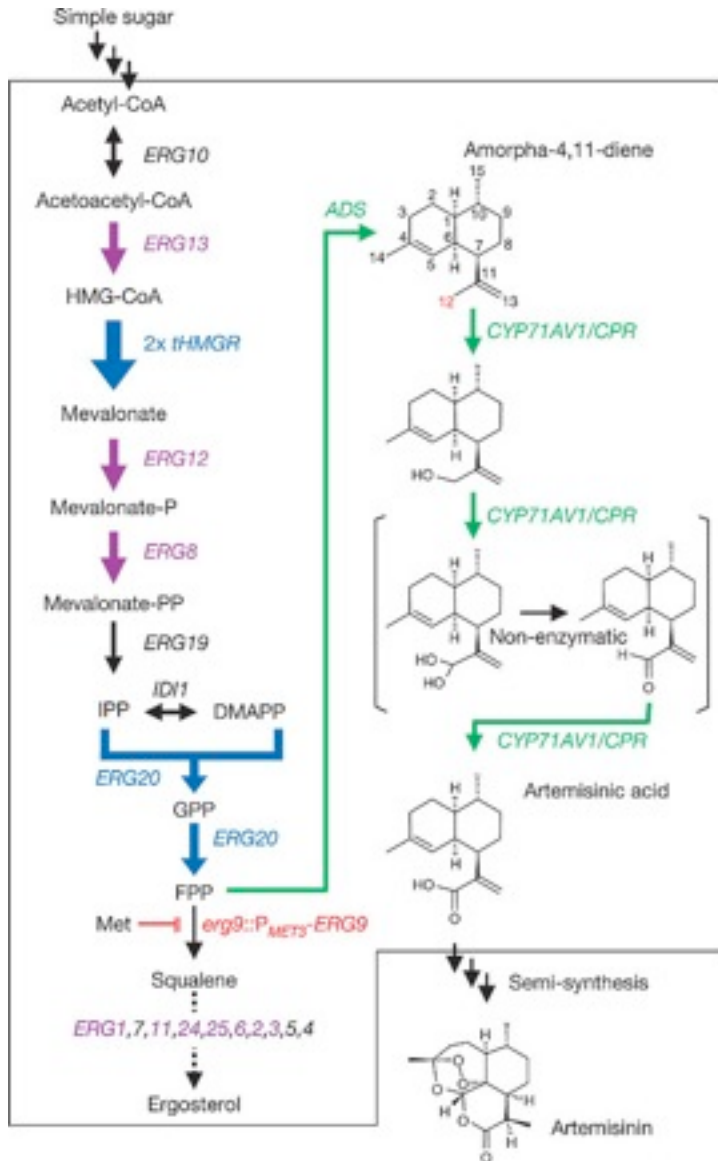
# Bioproduction of chemicals

- \* Using microorganisms for mass production of chemicals
- \* Modification of existing biosynthetic/metabolic pathways
- \* High yields compared to total chemical synthesis or isolation
- \* Enzymes can make exquisite stereospecific compounds

## Challenges

- \* Identification of the “gene cluster”
- \* Found in organisms without genetic engineering tools developed
- \* Heterologous expression in tractable host like E coli

# An early success of synthetic biology



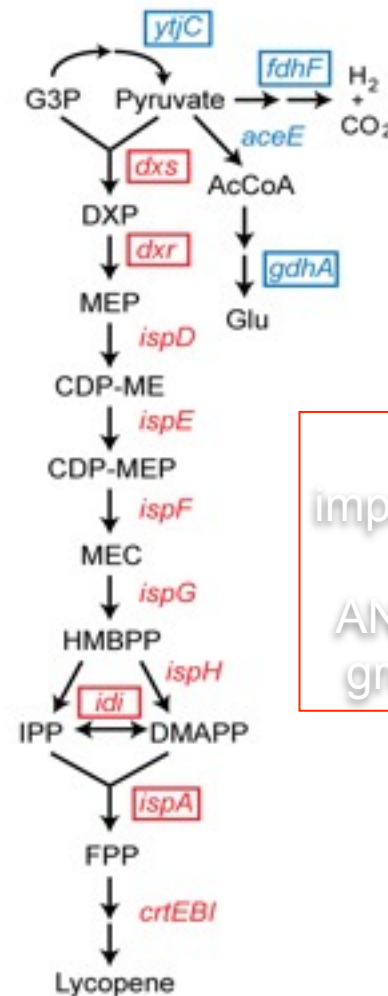
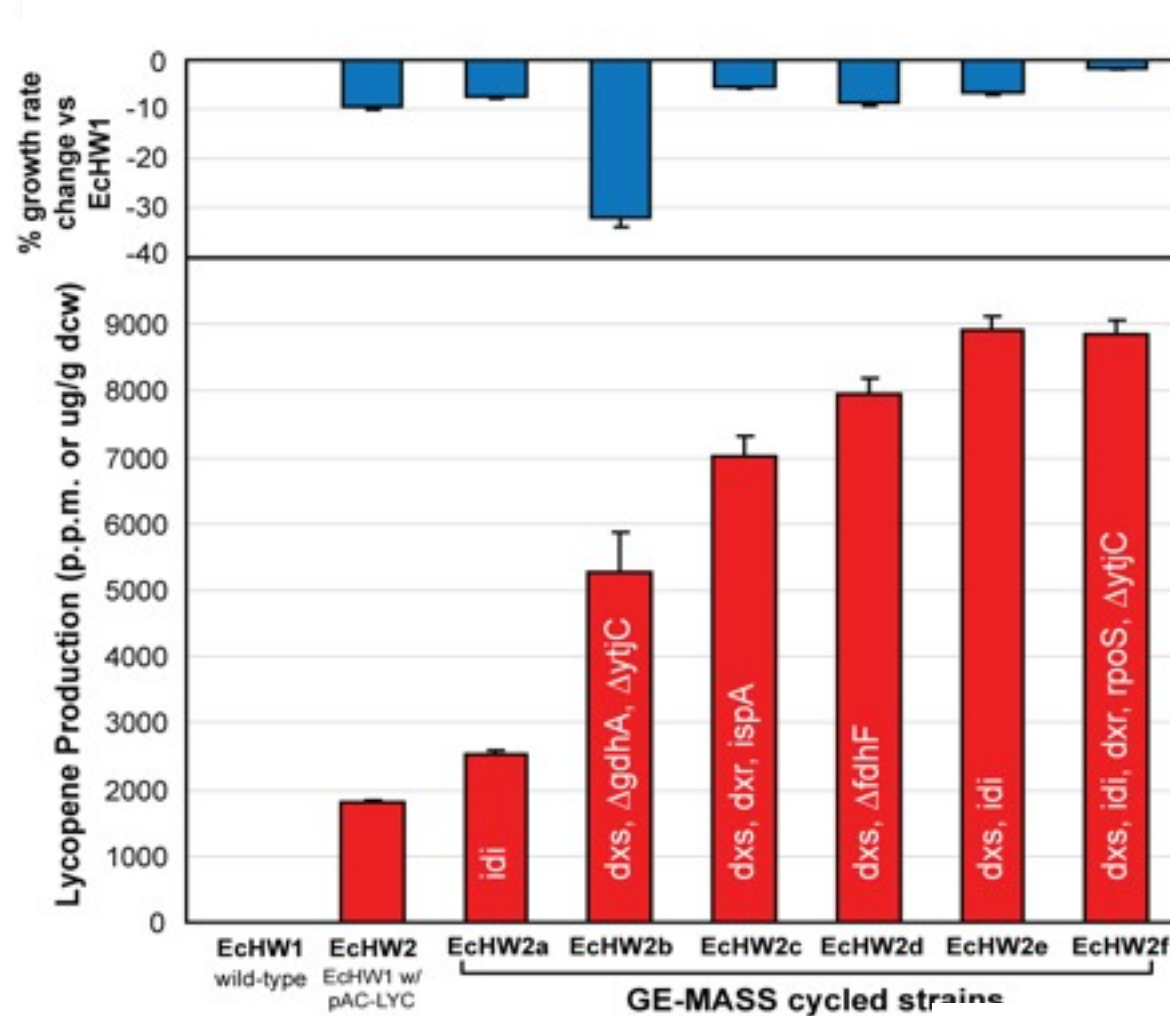
Production of artemisinic acid – precursor of anti malarial compound

Heterologous expression of a plant enzyme ADS and 8-gene mevalonate pathway from *S.cerevisiae*

Ro, Paradise and Keasling, Nature, 2006

# Accelerated Evolution 23K combinations per gene

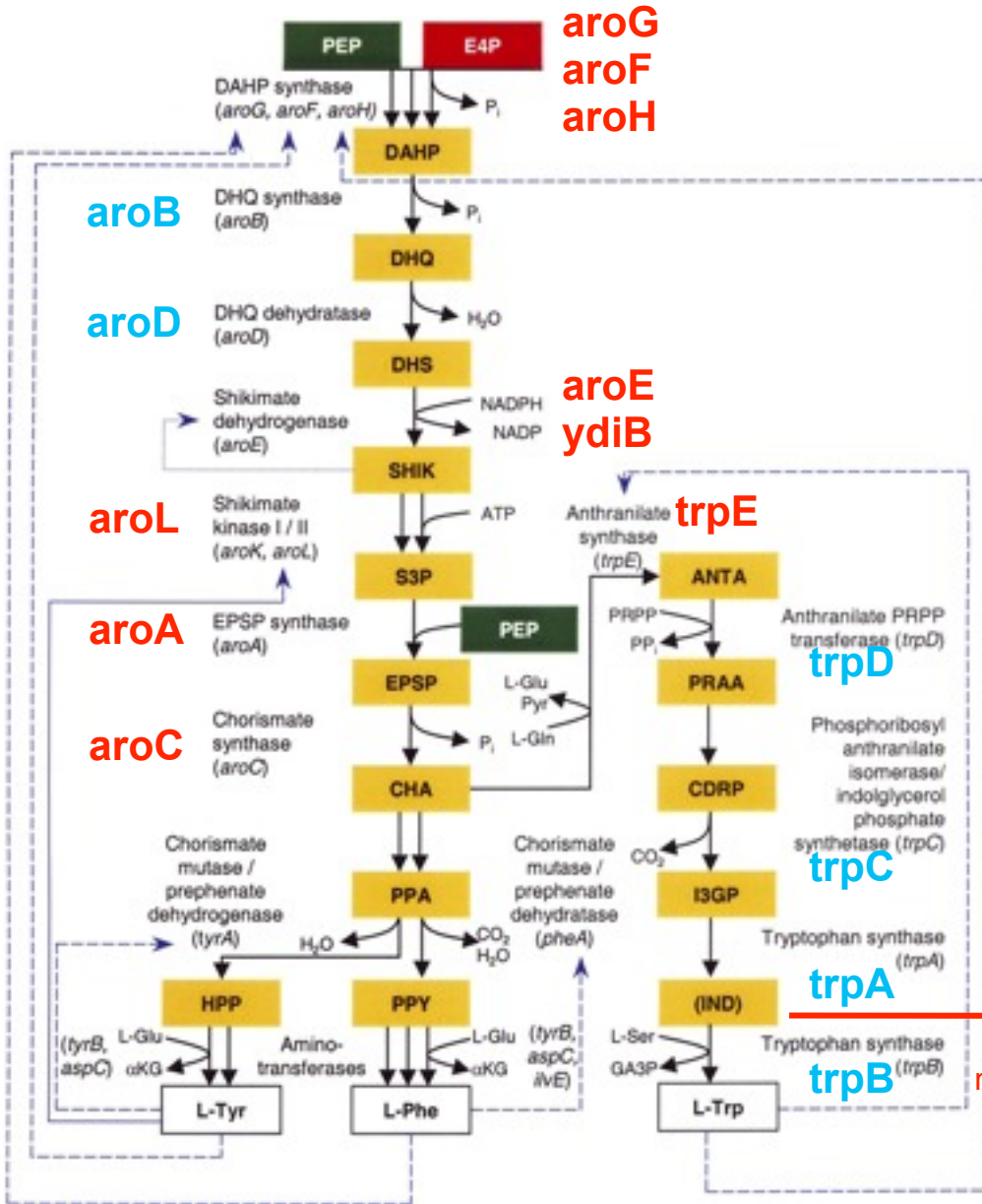
## Lycopene (hydrocarbon): 20 genes up, 4 down, 2 new



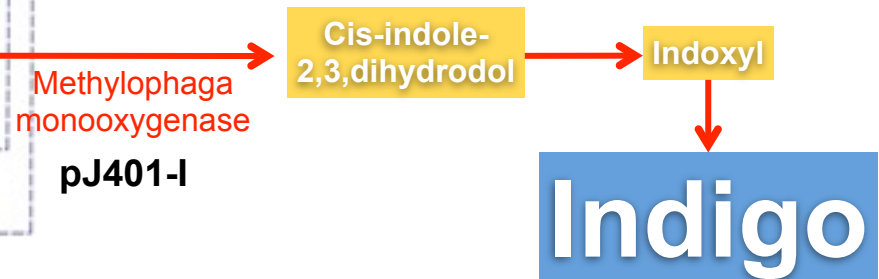
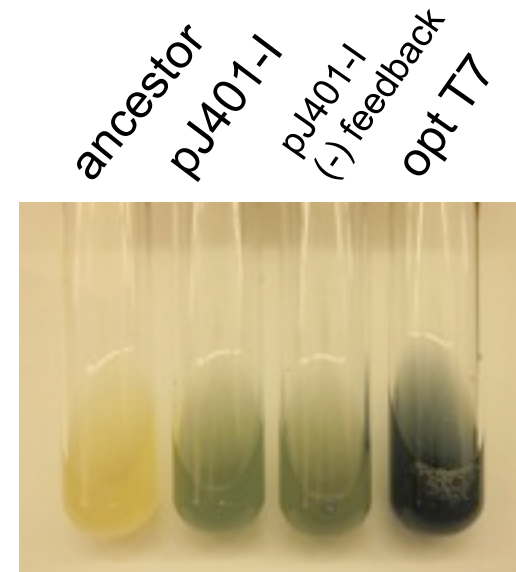
Wang H et al Nature 2009



# Native Pathway Engineering with Synthetic Promoters



## Insertion of T7 promoter into 12 different operons for and T7 RNAP regulated gene expression



# Outline

## Applications

- Biomaterials  
Biofabrication of circuits  
Engineered silk
- Biofilms – microbial consortium
- Production of industrial chemicals  
Lycopene  
Tryptophan

## Basic Enabling Technologies

- Genome Engineering
- Biosensors
- Orthogonally interacting protein pairs
- DNA synthesis



# 3 Protein-directed recombination strategies

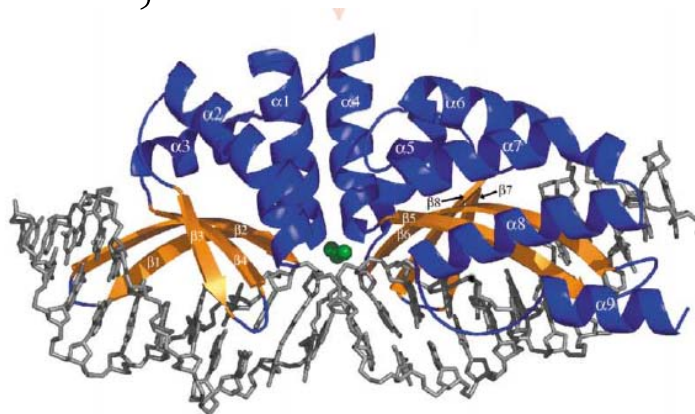
## 1. Integrase/recombinase

$\lambda$ (Gateway)

$\phi$ C31, Cre-lox

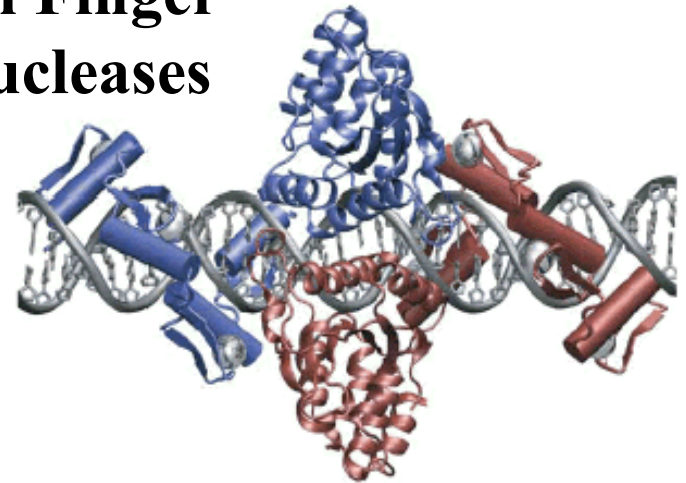
## 2. Meganucleases

SceI, DreI

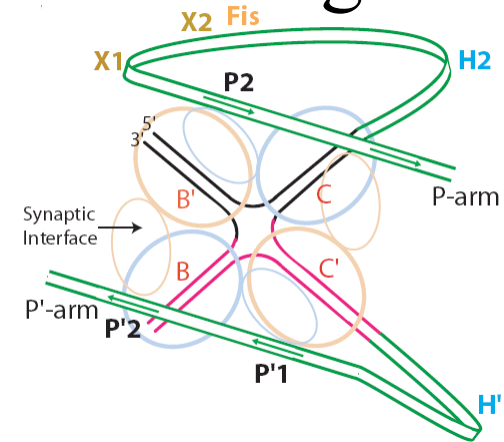


**E-DreI** (Engineered I-Dmol / I-CreI)

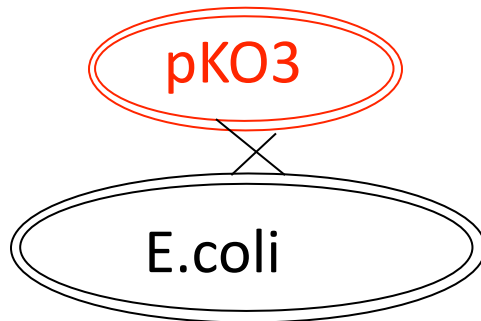
## 3. Zn Finger Nucleases



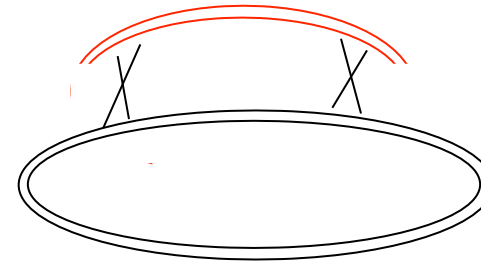
- Design, activity, and structure of a highly specific artificial endonuclease. Mol Cell. 2002 Chevalier, Kortemme, Chadsey, Baker, Monnat, Stoddard.
- A conformational switch controls the DNA cleavage activity of lambda integrase. Mol Cell. 2003 Aihara, Kwon, Nunes-Duby, Landy, Ellenberger



# Support 4 Genome engineering strategies



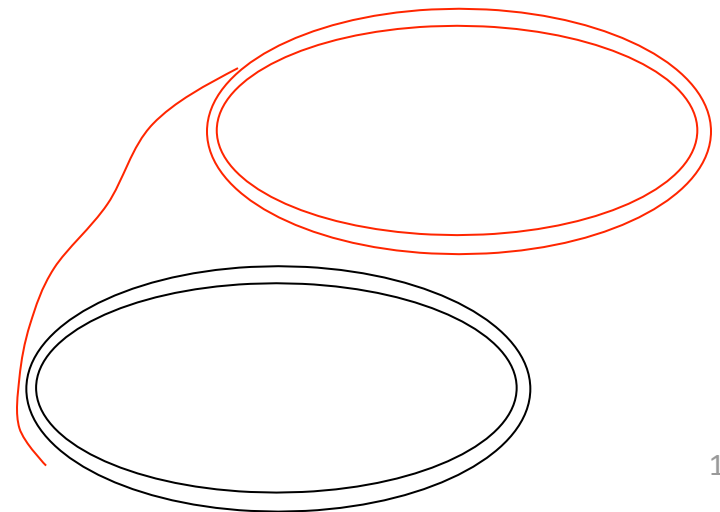
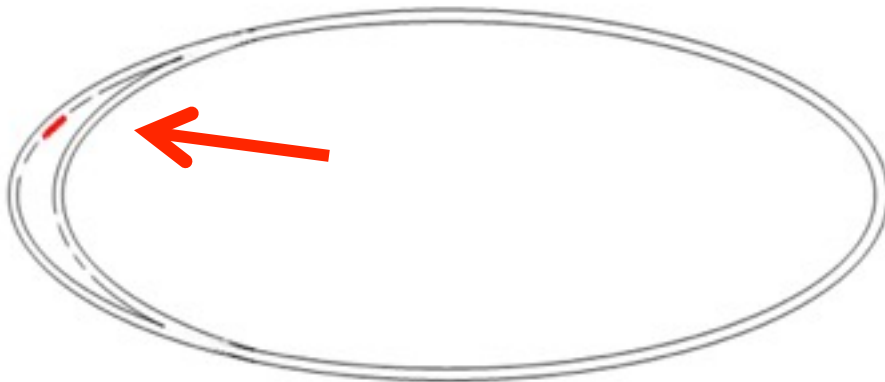
**#1: ds-Circle x Circle**  
2 step recA+ recombination  
Select + counterselect  
Link et al J. Bact 1997  
(Open-access)



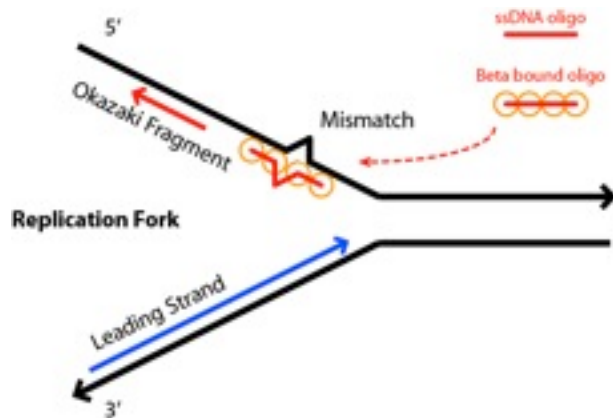
**#2: ds-Linear x Circle**  
1 step 5'>3'exo Reda/E b/T  
Select  
Zhang et al Nat.Gen 1998 Yu et al. PNAS 2000  
(GeneBridges license)

**#3: ss-90mer x ds-Circle**  
Costantino & Court PNAS'03

**#4: ss-Mb x ds-Circle conjugation**

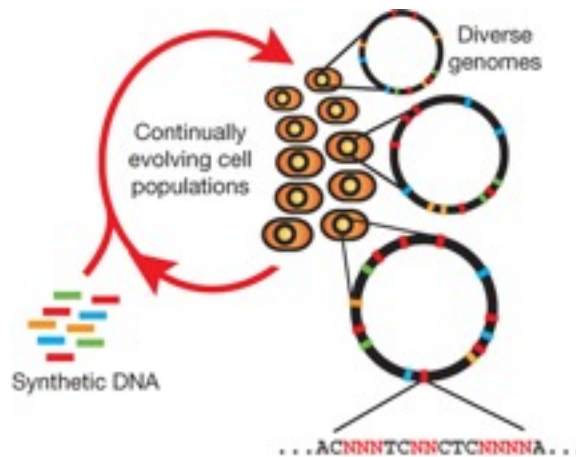


# Multiplex Automated Genome Engineering (MAGE)



## Allelic Replacement

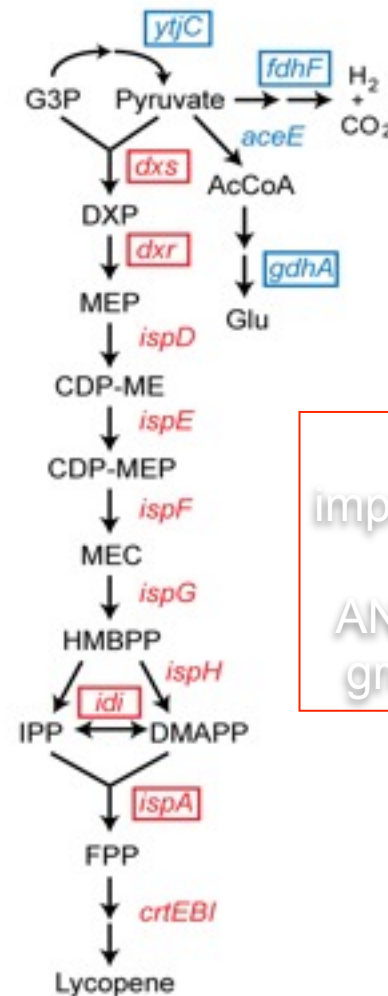
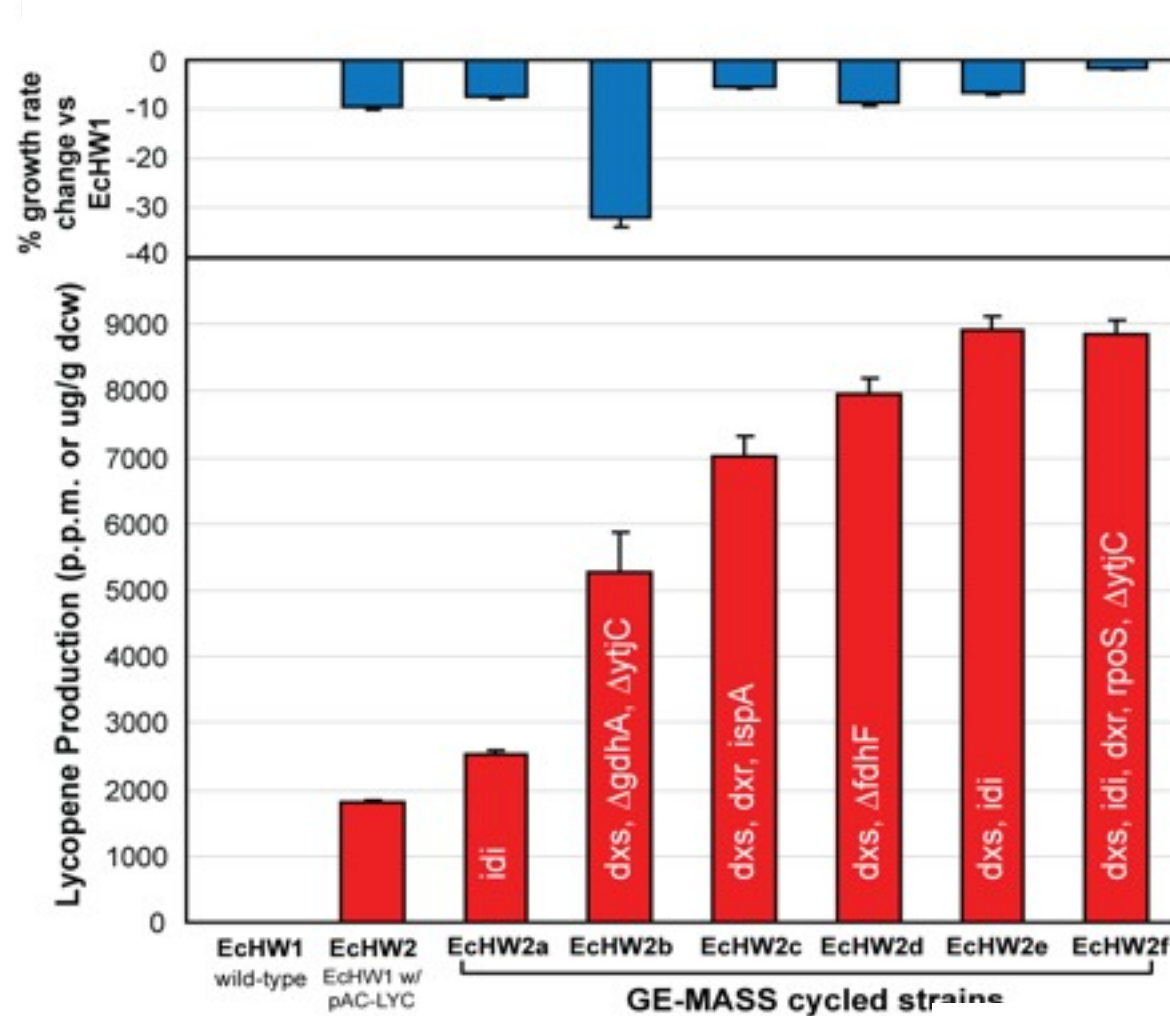
- Strain: MG1655,  $\Delta$ mutS, integrated  $\lambda$ -Red
- Highly complex oligo pools for multiplexed multi-loci modifications
- >4 billion bp of targeted genetic variation produced per day



Tool for accelerating evolution of an organism in the lab

# Accelerated Evolution 23K combinations per gene

## Lycopene (hydrocarbon): 20 genes up, 4 down, 2 new



5-fold improvement in 3 days AND improve growth rates



Wang H et al Nature 2009

# Small-molecule biosensors invivo

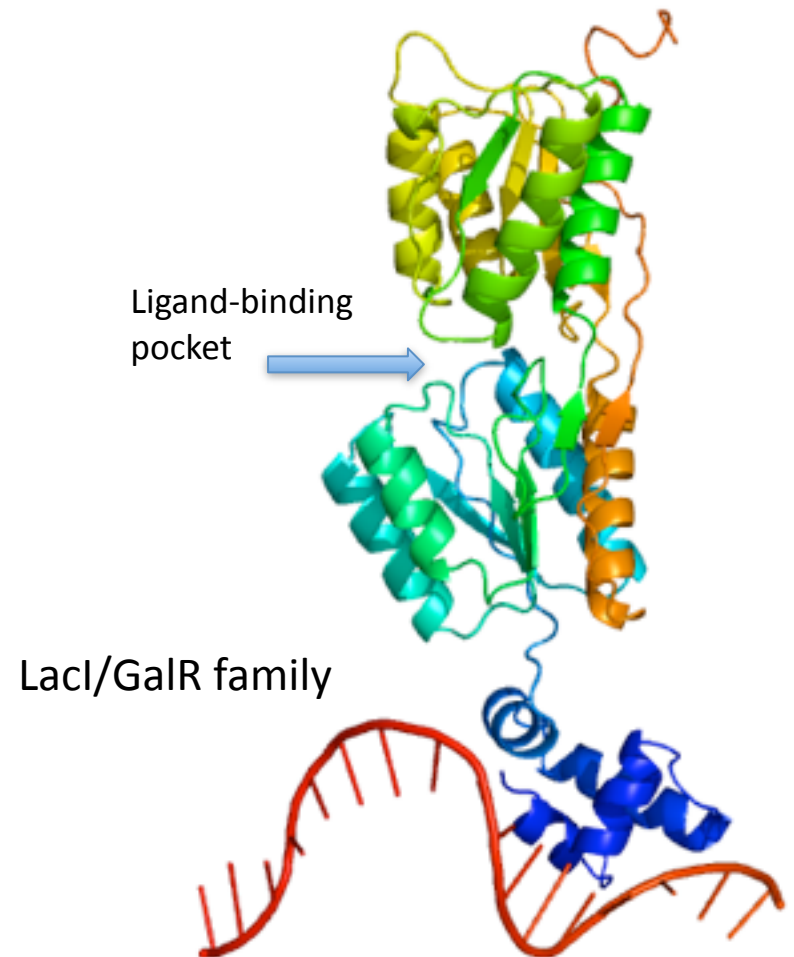
- Transcriptional control : protein-DNA-ligand
- Translation control : Riboswitches-mRNA-ligand
- Post-translational control : protein-protein-ligand

# Family of bacterial transcription

## Transcriptional control

DNA binding proteins: ada araC arcA argPR  
carP cpxR crp cspA cynR cysB cytR deoR  
dnaA dgsA fadR farR fhIA flhCD fnr fruR  
fur galR gcvA glpR hipB iclR ilvY lacI lexA  
lrp malT marR melR metJ metR modE nagC  
narL narP ntrC ompR oxyR pdhR phoB purR  
rhaS rpoE rpoH rpoN rpoS soxS torR trpR tyrR

- Ligand-activated
- Allosteric (built-in switch)
- Specificity switch for new ligands
- Potentially tight transcriptional control



# Riboswitch - attenuators

## Translational control

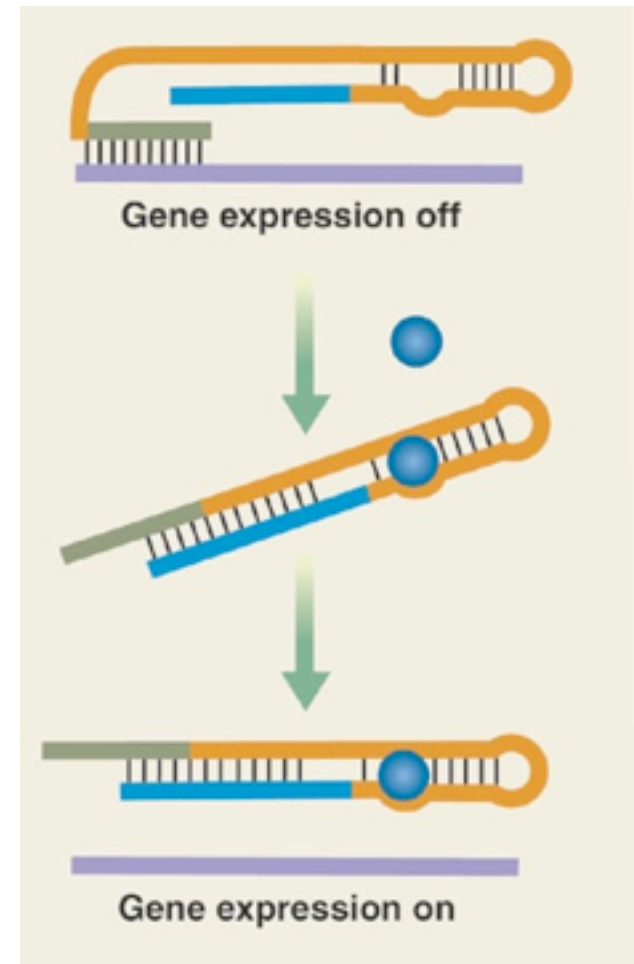
Adenine B12 FMN Guanine  
Glucosamine-6-phosphate Glycine di-GMP  
Lysine Molybdenum PreQ1 SAM SAH TPP  
theophylline 3-methylxanthine

- Ligand-activated
- Allosteric (built-in switch)
- Sequence-specific: anti-sense binds mRNA
- Specificity change can be designed

Breaker, Science, 2008

Bayer and Smolke, Nature Biotech, 2005

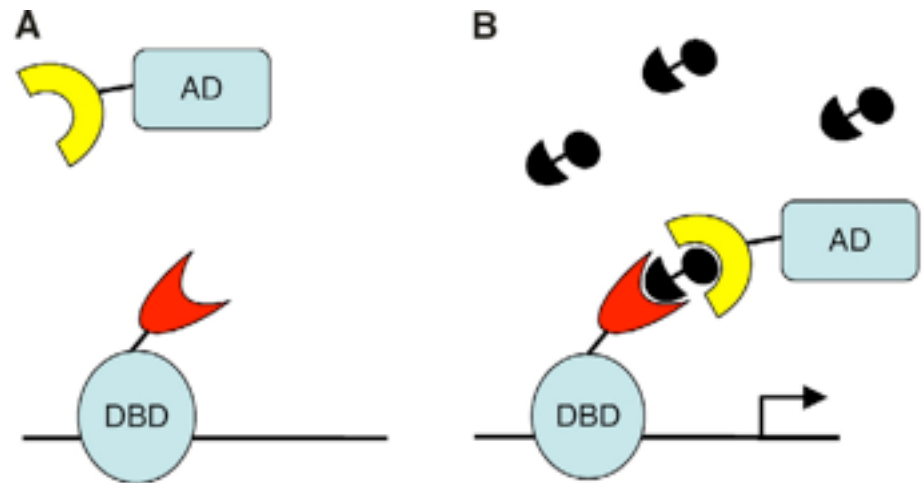
Isaacs et al, Nature Biotech, 2004



# Ligand-dependent two-hybrid style

## Post-translational control

- Protein domains interact when small-molecule is present. Eg: rapamycin
- DBD – ZFP, AD – NFkB domain
- AD recruits RNAPol
- DNA and ligand specificity change can be designed
- Other reporters :
  - screen – split GFP, split luciferase
  - selection – split DHFR



Ho, Biggar, Spencer, Schreiber and Crabtree, Nature, 1996



# Acknowledgments

George Church

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Ido Bachelet

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Biomaterials – Silk:

Feng Zhang

Sri Kosuri

Bioproduction – Lycopene and Trp

Harris Wang

Farren Isaacs

Rest of the Church lab

# Genome engineering 2000-2006

Dupont: 1,3 Propanediol  
(7 years & \$400M R&D)

135 g/l at 3.5 g/l/h

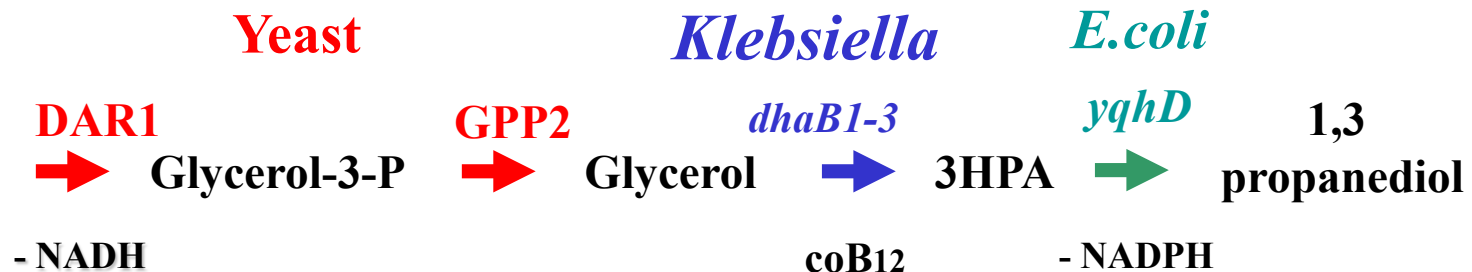
90% of theoretical yield from glucose



for Sorona  
polymers

**27 changes** to 4.6 Mbp *E.coli*

6 genes up, 13 down, 8 foreign genes



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